

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Medical Illumination.—Dishonesty and incompetence thrive only in the dark of general ignorance; the light of publicity wilts these noxious weeds. Medical schools are getting publicity a-plenty in these days, and the month of June was rather an unfortunate one for a number of them. From two distinct sources came publicity in large quantities. The Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association published its long-promised report indicating the relative standing of schools, and pointing out directly those that should have no recognition without complete reorganization. The report of the Carnegie Foundation on Medical Education, made after a most careful examination of every medical school in the United States and Canada by Abraham Flexner, was also issued in June, and is a monumental work so full of truths, and so pregnant with food for thought, that it will be eagerly read and its facts earnestly considered by all who are interested in medical teaching or medical progress. . . .

Florence Nightingale.—Florence Nightingale is dead at the age of ninety; fifteen years of suffering, during which time she has hardly left her bed, ended a remarkable career. . . .

It is difficult in this day to form a conception of the conditions which confronted her, and which, in her brief campaign, she did so much to remedy. . . .

Status of Osteopathy.—So far as we are aware, no accepted definition of "osteopathy" is as yet a matter of record. . . . Elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*, will be found some petitions relative to an application from certain osteopaths to be admitted to the Los Angeles County Hospital. This opens up a very broad question. . . .

Professor Ehrlich's New Remedy for Syphilis.—Within a brief period astounding progress has been achieved in the knowledge of syphilis: the discovery of the *Spirocheta pallida* as the etiologic agent was soon followed by the Wassermann test as a means of diagnosis, and now a great therapeutic triumph has been announced from Germany. . . .

For some years past Ehrlich has been assiduously devoting himself to a systematic search for chemical substances which would cure infectious diseases. . . .

We understand that dioxydiamidoarsenobenzol is a powder, and that it is very difficult to prepare a practicable sterile solution. . . . The efficacious dose in animals is said to be but a small fraction of the lethal dose, and by bolder use on human subjects, Ehrlich's ideal of a "sterilisatio magna" of a syphilitic body may yet be realized.

Remarks of Oscar C. Mueller, Chairman of Committee on Amendment of Laws of the Los Angeles Bar Association, on "Medical Expert Testimony."—The present status of expert testimony is unquestionably a disgrace to both the legal and medical professions, and the earnest endeavors of Doctor Lobingier to free these professions from this stigma and have California pioneer remedial legislation, is indeed laudable. . . .

* This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA*

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.
Secretary-Treasurer

News

Among the bills passed by the last legislature and signed by Governor Merriam were Senate Bills 155 and 820 and Assembly Bill 1765.

Senate Bill 155 (Chapter 670, Statutes 1935) amends Section 10 of the Medical Practice Act, requiring that graduates of foreign medical schools, in addition to fulfilling the educational requirements under Section 10 of the Medical Practice Act, must present evidence satisfactory to the Board that the applicant is licensed to practice medicine in the country in which is located the medical school which issued him his diploma. He must also show that he has completed a one-year internship in an approved hospital located in the United States or completed a senior year in an approved medical school in the United States.

Senate Bill 820 (Chapter 672, Statutes 1935) amends Section 2 of the Medical Practice Act, restoring the annual registration fee for licentiates under jurisdiction of the Board of Medical Examiners to \$2. It increases the annual registration fee for licentiates under jurisdiction of the Board of Osteopathic Examiners to \$5. It also amends Section 13 (reciprocity) permitting the applicant thereunder to show two years of legal practice in lieu of one year residence, now required in the State, used as the basis of reciprocity application.

Assembly Bill 1765 (Chapter 666, Statutes 1935) amends the Civil Code relating to incorporation of teaching institutions and prohibits the incorporation of any college, etc., proposing to issue transcripts, diplomas or degrees, unless the contemplated corporation fulfills the legal requirements as to financial responsibility and teaching personnel. This bill will prohibit further incorporation of fly-by-night colleges, but unfortunately will not control the host of present incorporated so-called schools or colleges. These corporations are being revived and purchased by those interested in conducting professional schools, their articles and purposes changed, and thereby will be evaded the provisions of Assembly Bill 1765. How to control the fly-by-night diploma and degree-conferring corporations is still a problem.

All bills will be effective at midnight September 14.

"In an opinion given to State Controller, Ray L. Riley, Attorney-General U. S. Webb ruled today the State Chiropractic Board had the right to employ inspectors. Webb declared the Board is charged with the duty of making investigations of applications and is given the power to revoke licenses. 'It is my opinion,' said Webb, '... that employment of investigators is necessary for the proper functioning of the Board, and, assuming that the number and compensation of such investigators are reasonable, it is my view that the Board has authority for such employment.' Riley received a letter from Dr. P. Purviance, protesting against the use of the Board's funds for the payment of salaries or expenses of investigators, contending the Chiropractic Act does not specifically give the Board the right to employ them." (*Sacramento Bee*, August 5, 1935.)

"Coincident with the discovery that he was arrested here in 1933 for unlicensed practice in connection with burning a woman's back with salve, Dr. Ralph S. Willard, Hollywood's frozen-monkey chemist, was re-

* The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.

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